

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01

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R 090930 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1973

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

UNCLAS SANAA 573

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: YE, ETRN

SUBJECT: CIVIL AVIATION: POSSIBLE WET- LEASE OF US AIRCRAFT
BY YEMEN AIRLINES

BEIRUT FOR CIVAIR

1. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED LETTER DATED MARCH 16 FROM STEVEN HAZY, AIR INTERCONTINENTAL INC, OF BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA (TEL 213-276-4700). LETTER INFORMS US AI IS NEGOTIATING FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY OF WET- LEASE BOEING 707-720 TO YEMEN AIRLINES, INCLUDING FULL GROUND SUPPORT TEAM (FOR TOTAL 14-15 AMERICANS). BOEING WOULD BE USED FOR WEEKLY SCHEDULES SERVICE TO JIDDA, CAIRO, BEIRUT, DOHA AND KUWAIT. COST WOULD BE IN MAGNITUDE OF 100,000 TO 125,000 DOLS MONTHLY.

2. REQUEST DEPT INFORM HAZY THAT THERE AMPLE FOREIGN EXCHANGE AVAILABLE IN YEMEN AND THERE ARE TWO BRANCHES OF BRITISH BANK OF MIDDLE EAST IN HODEIDA AND TAIZ. YEMEN BANK IN SANAA IS CORRESPONDENT OF IRVING TRUST.

3. REQUEST DEPT ALSO INFORM HAZY THAT WE HAVE TALKED WITH YA CHAIRMAN SALEH AL- ASHAWAL. HE IS CONVINCED THAT AIRLINE CAN OPERATE BOEING AT PROFIT
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AND PAY OUT OF MONTHLY RECEIPTS. HE SHOWED US EXCHANGE OF CABLES WHICH SUGGESTED MEETING IN BEIRUT AROUND APRIL 18. HE WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH FOR AI REPS TO COME TO SANAA INSTEAD TO SEE SITUATION FIRST-HAND AND MORE IMPORTANTLY BECAUSE IN SANAA HE CAN MAKE IMMEDIATE DECISIONS BY REFERENCE TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS. DESPITE ADDITIONAL TIME REQUIRED WE THINK THIS WOULD BE VERY DESIRABLE. IN ADDITION TO FOREIGN EXCHANGE QUESTION, WHICH WE THINK WOULD BE NO PROBLEM, IMAGINE AI WOULD WANT SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR MONTHLY PAYMENT. THIS BEST DONE HERE.

4. YEMEN AIRLINES HAS CONCLUDED TEMPORARY MONTHLY ARRANGEMENTS WITH ROYAL JORDANIAN TO PROVIDE WET-LEASE SUPER CARAVELLE ON INTERNATIONAL ROUTES. AIRCRAFT, HOWEVER, OPERATING OUT OF HODEIDA BECAUSE IT IS NOT SUITED TO SANAA'S ALTITUDE (7000 FEET). ASHAWAL SAYS RJ WANTS TO LEASE BOEING TO HIM, BUT HE MORE INTERESTED IN AI OFFER. HE ALSO HOPES AI REPS WILL BRING INFORMATION ON WET-LEASE TWO FOKKER F-27 S FOR INTERNAL SERVICE (ICAO ADVISOR BELIEVES THESE WOULD OPERATE AT PROFIT AS OPPOSED CURRENTLY-USED DC-3).

5. REQUEST HAZY PASS WORD THROUGH EMBASSY OF HIS PLANS SO THAT WE CAN INFORM ASHAWAL.
NEWTON

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